

ELECTROCARDIOGRAPHY—Fundamentals and Clinical Application—Third Edition, Illustrated—Louis Wolff, M.D., Visiting Physician, Consultant in Cardiology and Head of the Cardiographic Laboratories, Beth Israel Hospital; Clinical Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School. W. B. Saunders Company, West Washington Square, Philadelphia 5, Pa., 1962. 351 pages, \$8.50.

Since the first edition was published in 1950, Wolff's Electrocardiography has been a clearly written textbook embodying the fundamentals with their clinical application. The purpose of the original text is continued in this Third Edition, and a new approach is made whereby vectorcardiography provides a superior facility to the understanding of electrocardiography.

The diagnostic criteria established by the vectorcardiogram are beautifully correlated with the known patterns of electrocardiography in such a manner that a clear concept of vectors is readily applicable to electrocardiographic interpretation.

Addition of chapters dealing with the abnormal cardiac mechanisms, complex arrhythmias and digitalis intoxication are so superbly written that these most difficult subjects are readily understood. The diagnostic criteria of right and left ventricular hypertrophy and of bundle branch block, associated with myocardial infarction are helpfully written.

A student, young or old, will find this text a sound and comprehensive aid in diagnostic electrocardiography and a helpful guide to accurate clinical application.

GEORGE C. GRIFFITH, M.D.

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PRIMER OF CLINICAL MEASUREMENT OF BLOOD PRESSURE—George E. Burch, M.D., Henderson Professor of Medicine, Tulane University School of Medicine, New Orleans, La.; Physician-in-Chief in Medicine, Tulane Unit of the Charity Hospital of New Orleans, New Orleans, La.; and Nicholas P. DePasquale, M.D., Instructor in Medicine, Tulane University School of Medicine, New Orleans, La.; Visiting Physician, Tulane Unit of the Charity Hospital, New Orleans, La. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, Mo., 1962. 141 pages, \$5.50.

This most recent addition to the series of "primers" by Dr. Burch and his associates consists of seven chapters. The presentation includes detailed discussions of the historical background of blood pressure measurements, physiological background, clinical measurements, sources of error, normal values and variation with age and other factors, and the diagnostic application of blood pressure measurements. Both the theoretical background and practical information are lucidly presented and easy to read, and well illustrated by charts and drawings. It is indeed refreshing in the present day era of sophisticated and complex laboratory apparatus to find a book devoted to re-emphasis of a simple clinical measurement. This book is recommended to all clinicians and is well worth reading, for physicians tend to forget the important information that can be obtained by blood pressure measurement and only too often delegate it to auxiliary personnel.

ARTHUR SELZER, M.D.

SYNOPSIS OF NEUROLOGY—Francis M. Forster, B.S., M.D., Professor and Chairman, Department of Neurology, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine, Madison, Wis. The C. V. Mosby Co., 3207 Washington Blvd., St. Louis 3, Mo., 1962. 223 pages, \$6.75.

This small handbook was written for both medical student and the physician who is practicing in a field unrelated to neurology. It is a difficult task to write for such an unrelated audience and this book does not succeed entirely in its attempt.

It does list the most frequently occurring disorders under well-recognized categories with a brief description, which in most cases amounts to little more than a simple clinical definition.

It does present the neurological examination in outline form, but the meanings of disorders of normal function are only sketchily explored.

The list of references, although up-to-date, is inadequate. The value of the book would be increased by expanding those references to the more common diseases and including at least one reference to the more uncommon ones.

The book, to be of value to the non-neurological practitioner, should have paid more attention to the neurological manifestations of medical diseases.

This synopsis would be of some value to those practitioners who see little neurology and who are not familiar with neurological entities, but who may, on rare occasions, wish to refresh their memory, but do not need more than an outline.

DONALD MACRAE, M.D.

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MALPRACTICE LAW DISSECTED FOR QUICK GRASPING—Charles L. Cusumano, Member of New York Bar. Medicine-Law Press, Inc., 42 Broadway, New York 4, N. Y., 1962. 132 pages, \$10.

Mr. Cusumano's book is fresh and welcome in an outstanding way. It fills the need for a concise but comprehensive discussion of the law of malpractice. It is written so that a physician could read it through without any inclination to stop and put it aside. Once read, I suspect it will be retained in a convenient place for ready reference.

The value of this small volume has been greatly enhanced by the very excellent detailed table of contents and index. The publishers have done an excellent and attractive printing job.

Both the student physician and the experienced practitioner will find particularly interesting and helpful the chapters that deal with the elements of a malpractice case and those which describe the contract between the physician and the patient which the law implies. The author's discussion of the duties arising out of this relationship, is very well done. The safeguards which the law has provided for physicians are developed in a clear and interesting way. This book should prove interesting to many members of the profession.

WILLIAM M. WHELAN, LL.B.

